1 things. 2 Ο. Give me a sense for that. As a Board member looking at 3 Dr. Peterman, what was your appraisal of her conduct as 4 a Principal? And let me --5 It is not often that I am quilty of such misjudgment of Α. 6 an individual as I was of Dr. Peterman. I had very high hopes when we hired her. And by last summer, I could hardly wait for her to leave. Is that blunt enough? 8 It is certainly very straightforward. What was it that 9 Q. 10 produced your -- what shall I say -- disapproval of Dr. 11 Peterman? Dr. Peterman does not take criticism well. 12 Α. 13 big on chain of command. When working with Dr. 14 Peterman, if you wanted to get something done, want her 15 to do something, it takes combined efforts probably of a 16 dozen or more people to get it through to her you are 17 going to do this now. 18 I know that she consistently argued with Dr. 19 Nilsen, was constantly second guessing everything that 20 she was expected to -- he asked her to do, anybody asked 21 her to do. And she liked to play people against one 22 another. 23 0. How about in her public demeanor at Board meetings? 24 Do you remember earlier I made the comment that Α. 25 sometimes when one wants to physically pop someone in

1		the mouth or nose? I would have to say I am fairly
2		certain I was not the only one who had that desire in
3		meetings at times.
4		She often spoke of things that were better
5		discussed in a different situation, and she openly went
6		against her boss.
7	Ω.	Dr. Nilsen?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	So am I understanding you correctly that she would
10		contradict positions or statements
11	Α.	Very much so.
12	Q.	Of Dr. Nilsen?
13	A.	Now on the positive side, I must say Dr. Peterman is one
14	-	of the most brilliant women I have ever met.
15	Q.	How about just in the sort of the mechanics of her
16	i	presentation, was she respectful to the Board
17	Α.	No.
18	Q.	when she addressed them? Do you recall any occasions
19	ļ	where she spoke to the public rather than to the Board?
20	A.	Constantly.
21	Q.	Do you recall any occasions where she either gestured
22		violently or pounded the podium in speaking?
23	Α.	Occasionally.
24	Q.	Let me see if I understand you. Did you provide input
25		to Dr. Nilsen that went into the review of Dr. Peterman?

1		In other words
2	Α.	As part of being personnel chair?
3	Q.	Yes.
4	А.	No. Here again, I am not sure of confidentiality here.
5		Dr. Nilsen and I discussed. Beyond that, I don't think
6		I can tell you what.
7	Q.	And I don't want to violate anything you have. I just
8		want to get the sense for it. Let me ask you this:
9		Were you party to discussions on the Board about Dr.
10		Peterman's conduct at public Board meetings?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Did you express disapproval of Dr. Peterman's
13		comportment to at the Board meetings?
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	Were you party to directives that the Board communicated
16		to Dr. Nilsen to Dr. Peterman with respect to her
17		conduct at the Board meetings?
18	Α.	Not beyond discussion at the Board level with Dr.
19		Nilsen. It was Dr. Nilsen's place and right and
20		responsibility to deal with the situation. And he did.
21		He talked with us as a Board in executive session
22		regarding Dr. Peterman, as he did with various personnel
23		issues. But it was his final decision how to deal with
24		the issue. He was kind enough to keep me in the loop as
25		chairperson of personnel, but it was his decision, not

- 1 mine.
- 2 Let me ask you: Did he communicate to you at some point Ο. a set of guidelines he had given Dr. Peterman about her 3
- 4 conduct at Board meetings?

in essence?

- 5 Α. Yes.
- When you heard those guidelines, did you agree with them 6 Q. 7
- 8 I didn't think they were strong enough. Α.
- 9 Ο. Okav.
- No. Very seriously, I did a agree. I thought they were 10 Α.
- 11 very appropriate. Dr. Nilsen was more constrained than
- 12 I probably would have been.
- Thank you. It just occurred to me that I hadn't asked 13 Q.
- 14 you about her.
- 15 The June meeting we have discussed, the Board
- 16 curriculum committee where you come out of that meeting
- 17 and you have the sense --
- 18 Α. We are okay.
- 19 We are okay. We are in July of 2004. And it is your Q.
- 20 recollection there is no Board meetings set for July?
- 21 Yes. And we may have had one, but I don't --Α.
- 22 Either way, does anything stick out in your memory today Q.
- 23 occurring in July of 2004 that relate to the biology
- 24 text?
- Okay. The latter part of July -- and I didn't mark the 2.5 Α.

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1		day but in the latter part of July, the first mention
2		of Of Pandas and People came about. But I didn't get it
3		from Mr. Buckingham.
4	Q.	Okay. Tell me, plainly remember it and sort of the time
5		specifically, how did it come to your attention? How
6		did the text of Of Pandas come to your attention?
7	A.	Mr. Baksa.
8	Ω.	And how exactly? Did he give you a call?
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	Was it in connection with another contemplated meeting
11		of the Board curriculum committee?
12	A.	We were talking about curriculum, setting up meetings.
13		He mentioned that Mr. Buckingham had gotten the text,
14		and he and Dr. Nilsen had gotten one or more copies of
15		it. I don't recall how many. And it was going to be
16		brought up.
17	Q.	And you say it was going to be brought up when?
18	Α.	As part of a discussion. I can't tell you a specific
19		date was mentioned at that point. We are getting into
20		August, and I may be a month off there.
21		But I only learned of Of Pandas and People second
22		hand because Mr. Baksa told me about this.
23		Mr. Buckingham never did me the courtesy of letting me
24		know what was happening, even though I was a member of
25		the curriculum committee.
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And my husband subsequently went to Mrs. 1 Harkins's house because she had a copy I think through 2 the District -- in fact, I am pretty sure it was through 3 the District -- Of Pandas and People. May I just say 4 the Pandas book? 5 Yes. 6 Q. Thank you. Of the Pandas book. And brought it home. 7 Α. Okay. You said Mike said it was going to be brought up. 8 0. Tell me can you recall was it at a Board curriculum 9 meeting or a meeting of the Board itself? 10 A meeting of the Board. 11 Α. So that would mean I believe the first meeting in 12 Ο. August; does that sound right? 13 Something like that. Or it could have been the first 14 meeting in September. In that time frame. As I said to 15 you earlier, some of this runs together. And then 16 everything was happening very quickly. 17 I can tell you -- and I will try to cut to the 18 chase here. We received the text on a Thursday at the 19 end of the month. My husband and I read it from cover 20 to cover through the weekend, and we discussed it. 21 And in essence, Mr. Buckingham brought it up at 22 the meeting without having discussed it with us at a 23 regular curriculum meeting. Whether or not he discussed 24 it with any other member of the Board, I know that he 25

did not discuss it ahead of time with my husband, with 1 myself, with Mr. Wenrich or with Mrs. Yingling. 2 cannot speak to the rest of the members of the Board as 3 to their fore knowledge of the text itself or what 4 Mr. Buckingham planned to propose. 5 Okay. I want to make sure I am following you. 6 Q. Mike said it was going to be brought up, you said it 7 wasn't discussed at a curriculum committee meeting prior 8 to it being brought before the whole Board? 9 That's correct. 10 Α. And that in fact you had to call Sheila, or did your 11 Q. husband have to stop by? 12 My husband talked with Sheila. 13 Α. And then it seems like there is a very short space of 14 Q. time between your actually getting the book, reviewing 15 it, and it being in front of the Board? 16 That's correct. 17 Α. Tell me what was your sense of the text when you read 18 Q. 19 it? I researched the text online. It is published by an 20 Α. obscure publisher in Texas that is not a regular 21 textbook publisher. The text itself was written for a 22 college level, not for a high school level. 23 To my knowledge, based on my research -- and I am 24 only talking about my personal research -- I could not 25

Α.

I tried.

find any references to it being used in any high school, public or private, in the United States of America.

And the brief worldwide search that I did in terms

of its usage, the only reference I could find to it was the fact that it is indeed contained in the reference section of the University of Oxford in England.

Now my research was not in any way exhaustive. I had a fairly short space of time when my vision allowed me to even be on the computer. So I would say I spent know more than eight hours. So I do not pretend to have exhaustive answers or definitive answers on where.

But the text was not written for anything but college and beyond in terms of level of understanding. It was not written for high school, and most definitely not for ninth grade students.

I am fairly well educated, and I had to get the dictionary out to inform myself as to the meaning of some of the vocabulary used.

- Q. Okay. When I look at the course of action you have described, it seems consistent with the diligence you showed earlier in the year regarding the other texts?
- Q. And you have mentioned the readability scale, sort of the intelligibility for the grade level. Did you compare the text against the PA standards or the Dover

1		curriculum standards?
2	Α.	Yes, I did.
3	Q.	What did you conclude in that regard?
4	A.	Because of its content and the way in which it is
5		written, I would not say it fulfilled the standards of
6		either.
7	Q.	Okay. And just give me a little more detail. Let me
8		ask you this: At the time that you received word of the
9		text from Mike Baksa, did he say the purpose for which
10		the text was being proposed by Mr. Buckingham? More
11		specifically, did he say Bill has come up with a book Of
12		Pandas that he wants to use as a supplementary text?
13	Α.	My understanding at that point in time, my own
14		understanding alone, was that Mr. Buckingham wished to
15		propose this as a side by side text.
16	Q.	Okay. And so you reviewed it with that in mind I take
17		it?
18	Α.	I reviewed it first and foremost as to its
19		understandability for our students. And once I had
20		really gotten into the main portion of the text, I
21		stopped well, my husband was reading it too. We did
22		kind of take turns.
23		But I really stopped and started pulling out my
24		standards requirements. And then I was also reading
25		with those in mind.
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- 1 Q. Okay. Any other conclusions that you reached as a result of that review in this little short window relating to that text?
- A. Just that I didn't feel that it was appropriate. I am not sure what you are asking.
- Q. Well, I mean you have referenced some specific defects
 as you saw it in the text. It was not age appropriate.

 Difficult to read, made for college level. It didn't
 dovetail readily with the state standards?
- 10 A. Or our own curriculum guide.
- 11 Q. Did you look at it and just think it was not legitimate
 12 -- a legitimate supplementary text?
- 13 A. Absolutely.
- 14 Q. What led you to that conclusion?
- 15 A. In my research, I accessed reviews by various people in
 16 the educational field, specifically in the educational
 17 field of science, the sciences rather than English or
 18 Spanish. And the reviews I was able to read were not
 19 favorable. And they really dovetailed with what I was
 20 coming away with just reading it. I --
- 21 Q. I am sorry.
- 22 A. I am not sure what you want here.
- Q. I am just trying to get a sense for the reservations
 that you had about the text. Let me ask you: As a
 science text when you read it prior to looking at the

reviews, did you look at this and say this isn't 1 science? MR. SCHMIDT: Object to the form. 3 I am not a scientist. I could only look at it from the 4 Α. viewpoint of my own experience and understanding. 5 looked at it from the viewpoint of whether or not it was 6 7 understandable. Besides the fact, I would think it would put most 8 people to sleep within ten or fifteen minutes if you 9 even got through the introduction. I looked at it from 10 the viewpoint of our students, and I felt this was going 11 to give them nothing but headaches and questions. 12 Okay. And then you said you got out on the Net and read 13 Ο. 14 some reviews? 15 Yes. It seemed like the reviews were consistent with your 16 0. opinion; did I understand you correctly? 17 Yes. 18 Α. Tell me what criticisms of the text you took from the 19 Ο. 20 reviews. Basically, what I have already said. That it was not a 2.1 Α. good text in either content or understandability for 22 students of any age. And they were talking more the 23 college level, not the high school level because that 2.4 25 was the level for which it was written.

I don't recall that I read any reviews as to the 1 impact on high school students. It was related to the 2 college level. 3 And let's speak to the content. Did you find reviews 4 Q. that were criticizing its content as science? 5 6 Yes. Α. What do you recall about those reviewers? Just give me 7 a sense. 8 9 One word I do recall gobbledygook. Α. Did you have a sense it was religion when you read it? 10 Q. 11 I read it and viewed it, and still view it, as a way to Α. try and bring religious views in the back door. 12 Just looking at the text and based on your review 13 at this time, what was it? Just tell me in general what 14 15 gave you that impression. The authors of the text attempted to take 16 Α. known scientific theories that have been proven and bend 17 18 them to fit a certain set of values. Okay. Just give me a sense, what set of values do you 19 0. see them trying to bend? 20 Values is probably the wrong word. A certain mindset, a 21 Α. certain viewpoint that one cannot question, but there is 22 23 some sort of supernatural agency beyond all life on earth and the universe. Now nowhere in the text is God 24

mentioned by name. Okay? It doesn't say God got us,

Mohammed or anything like that. I'm not saying that. 1 Nowhere does it say in the text that all life 2 started with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. 3 not that blatant. 4 Okay. Let me ask you though: Based on your reading, 5 Q. did you come away with that impression? 6 That was my impression of the author's intent. 7 Α. As distinct from the contents of the text? 8 Q. It was my impression after reading the text that the 9 Α. 10 author's intent was to bring a certain religious viewpoint into the classroom by the back door. 11 And that religious viewpoint is? Just give me your 12 Ο. sense for it. 13 14 Α. My feeling, my personal feeling is that the viewpoint the authors were espousing or attempting to 15 espouse was that of one belief system and one belief 16 17 system only. What is that belief or what belief system do you see 18 0. 19 them espousing? I can't read their minds, but I believe it was a 20 Α. 21 Christian belief system. Was there anything in the text specifically that pointed 22 Q. 23 you in that direction you thought? The overall. Not one specific thing. As I have already 24 Α. 25 stated, there is no mention of God or Creationism or the

Garden of Eden or Adam and Eve. There is not a literal 1 2 Biblical interpretation mentioned. It was the overall tone to me. One specific --3 no, I couldn't give you one specific thing. 4 approach seemed to be that the authors wanted to provide 5 a supernatural explanation for everything. 6 7 Did you see the book as a Creationist text? Q. 8 Yes, I did. Intelligent Design, Creationism by another Α. 9 term. Is that how you see it? 10 0. 11 Still do. Α. So you get this book sort of here in July, and do you 12 0. 13 recall anything else that Mike Baksa said to you about 14 the book when he talked to you? 15 Α. Not really. Did he say anything about the book being made available 16 Q. 17 to Board members? 18 I asked. I tend to do that. I asked. Α. 19 What did he say, or what did Mike tell you about that? Q. I'm not exactly sure of his wording, but to the effect 20 Α. 21 they had one or more copies. He thought that Sheila

Harkins had the one copy. It turned out that she did.

a contested meeting. What do you recall about that,

This is plainly

Let's look then at the August meeting.

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Mrs. Brown?

- 1 A. We get -- again, we thought we were in good shape.
- 2 Q. What do you mean? Go ahead.
- 3 A. That everything was okay, was going to be okay. It was
- 4 not a good situation. The contention was very open.
- 5 The contention among -- contentiousness among Board
- 6 members was very open. Here again, I may be off a
- 7 little bit time wise.
- 8 Q. Let me ask you: When you said you thought it was going
- 9 to be okay, you thought that the Miller and Levin text
- 10 would be approved?
- 11 A. We really did.
- 12 Q. And then as the meeting unfolded, you get to the
- curriculum part. Tell me then as best you can recall
- 14 | what happened next? Was there a motion to approve that
- 15 text?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Then what happened?
- 18 A. It was defeated. It was defeated by a tie because one
- member was absent. Mrs. Cleaver was not at the meeting.
- 20 Q. Do you recall discussion surrounding the text at that
- 21 time?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 O. Tell me what you recall. What did Mr. Buckingham say
- 24 about the vote on the Miller and Levin text?
- 25 | A. Let's see if I can put it in brief. Essentially what he

said was that he would give us our textbook if we gave 1 In essence, he held it up for blackmail. 2 him his. If we didn't approve Of Pandas as an adjunct text, 3 he had the votes to see that we didn't get our biology 4 5 book. Do you recall him stating the reasons for his 6 Ο. Okav. position at that time? I don't recall the exact language. But there again, he 8 Α. was referring to the death of Christ on the cross 9 2000 years, and people taking a stand for him. 10 Tell me how that came up. Did you see that as connected 11 Q. to the biology text? 12 13 A. Yes. Why is that? Did he say something? 14 Q. That's what we were talking about. 15 What engendered that comment, or what produced that 16 comment; can you recall? 17 We were discussing it. He wanted the School District to 18 Α. buy the texts with taxpayer funds. I know I made a 19

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comment. I believe Mr. Wenrich might have. Mr. Bonsell

was also concerned about this and expressed concerns.

25 A. Mr. Bonsell's approach was from the Intelligent Design

. 1		standpoint. My impression was that he was very much
2		opposed to the way Mr. Buckingham was handling it.
3		Beyond that, you would have to ask Mr. Bonsell.
4		I can only interpret it from my own viewpoint. I
5		know he was upset about it.
6	Q.	Upset about what Mr. Buckingham was doing?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	How about Sheila Harkins?
9	Α.	Mrs. Harkins voted with Mr. Buckingham.
10	Q.	Did she speak to why she was voting that way; did she
11		say?
12	Α.	She refused to give a reason. I can say that for
13		certainty because I was one of three Board members who
14		asked her.
15	Q.	How about Noel Wenrich, do you remember him addressing
16		Mr. Buckingham?
17	А.	Yes, I do.
18	Q.	Tell me what
19	Α.	He was also in opposition to what Mr. Buckingham was
20		trying to do. And Mr. Wenrich has publicly stated his
21		support of Creationism, but he did not like the way that
22		Mr. Buckingham was going about things.
23	Q.	How about Intelligent Design? Did Mr. Wenrich speak to
24		that during this August Board meeting?
25	Α.	I don't recall any specific comments, not to say he did

myth. And we are a Christian nation founded on 1 Christian values, and anybody who doesn't like it should 2 go home. My quote is not direct, but the gist is there. 3 Okay. How about Angie Yingling, did she respond to 4 Q. Mr. Buckingham's comments? 5 Angie initially voted with Mr. Buckingham. She told me 6 Ά. afterwards that she felt a great deal of pressure to do 7 8 so. Yes, our discussion got very hot and contentious. 9 Members of the audience both pro and con spoke at some 10 length. Angie changed her vote stating we need to give 11 our kids their books. 12 And because she changed her vote and we were able 13 to do a revote, we did approve the Prentice Hall text. 14 And as everyone knows, we actually did get it in time to 15 open the school year. 16 The teachers -- let me be a little more specific. 17 To the best of my recollection, Mrs. Spahr and 18 Mrs. Miller, in particular, spoke at some length about 19 their concerns about getting the text. They weren't 20 speaking necessarily to the issue of Of Pandas and 21 It was the concerns for the well being -- well 22 People. being is perhaps the wrong -- but being able to meet the 23 24 needs of the students. They did object -- I cannot give you exact 25

The people who were privy to that were Mr. Brown, 1 2 my husband, and Mr. Maldonado, the reporter from the 3 York Daily Record. I am reporting only what I was told as regards 4 that. If you would prefer, you can get it from the 5 horse's mouth from Mr. Brown tomorrow. 6 7 Okay. I think I am understanding you better now. 0. you saying that Angie Yingling's statement about feeling 8 9 under pressure was made with your husband and Mr. Maldonado present, not you? 10 11 Α. What I am saying is what caused that was what happened when Mr. Buckingham verbally attacked her after 12 I was not privy to that conversation. 13 the meeting. 14 My conversation to her was after the meeting was 15 long over, like a day later. I spoke with her by phone, 16 and she was an emotional wreck. I am sorry. May I get some water? 17 18 Q. Most certainly. Now I see where you are coming from. 19 Let's stay with the meeting and just in August. 20 got this contentious vote on the text. Angie switches. 21 I am not so much interested in the comments from 22 the public, but the other Board members. Is there 23 anything else you recall them saying? 24 Mrs. Harkins -- Mr. Buckingham's comments to the effect Α. 25 that he would give us our text if we gave him his,

everything comes out of that. I made the statement to the effect that we needed to have our texts approved by the 31st of July, and we were beyond that now, our primary text. Mrs. Harkins stated that a supplemental text could be approved at any time of year. And that is the truth. By Code, we are allowed to approve a supplemental text. But you cannot approve a supplemental text unless you have a primary text. And that was my response to her. Her response to me was you can approve a supplemental any time, and mine was not if you don't have a regular one first, if you don't have a main text. There was discussion about bringing it in as a supplemental text, a discussion of it being a reference, a discussion on whether it should be in the library or the classroom. What do you recall? Let's run through those topics Q. because that is kind of what we are discussing here. Did Mr. Buckingham advocate using Of Pandas as a supplemental text? Α. Yes, and he wanted it in the classroom. Did other Board members agree with him on that point, Q. that it should be a supplemental text?

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25 Q. Tell me if you can, Alan Bonsell, can you recall whether

1 he stated a position on the use Of Pandas as a 2 supplemental text? I can't be certain. I believe Mr. Bonsell -- and I 3 Α. 4 apologize. This is to the best of my recollection 5 Mr. Bonsell favored it as a reference text -- a 6 reference material. 7 I think what I recall is it was back and forth. 8 can't be certain of where everyone stood to be very 9 honest. I know where a few people stood on the 10 material, but not where everyone stood. I know that I was one of the few who vehemently 11 12 objected to it in the classroom. My stated position was 13 if you are going to offer this viewpoint, you must offer 14 all the rest. If you are going to offer this hypothesis 15 or theory of the origins of life, then we must offer all 16 of them or we start getting into trouble. 17 Ο. And is that because you saw it as a religious 18 hypothesis? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Q. Was there any discussion of teaching Creationism at this 21 August Board meeting? 22 Α. Not at this point. By now, we had reached a point where 23 the term Intelligent Design was used, but the content 24 remained Creationism. 25 And when you say that, Mrs. Brown, is that based on your Q.

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1		assessment of the content of Of Pandas?
2	A.	Not just my assessment, if you will, of the content of
3		the text itself, but my assessment of what was being put
4 .		forth in terms of what we should be teaching.
5		The content did not change. The viewpoints did
6		not change. Only the name for it changed. We no longer
7		heard the term Creationism. We now heard the term
8		Intelligent Design. There again, though, it was never
9		defined as lower case or capitalized.
10	Q.	So do you recall anyone making that connection during
11		the August Board meeting; do you recall any of the Board
12		members making that?
13	Α.	Making what connection?
14	Q.	Between Intelligent Design and Creationism.
15	Α.	I have the sense based on the content of what was being
16		said.
17	Q.	Okay. Tell me what
18	Α.	The viewpoints were still the same. We bring God back
19		into the schools. We bring prayer back into the
20		schools. We bring the religious viewpoint back into the
21		schools one religious viewpoint into the schools.
22		And my sense of that viewpoint was that it was the
23		viewpoint of a portion of the Christian community.
24	Q.	If we look at the Board members though, I mean you have
25		attributed that view to Bill Buckingham, and you had

1 some concern.

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A. Six of our nine Board members at that point in time were members of the Evangelical Christian faith. A variety of churches, I am not saying one church, but that portion of the Christian faith.

Mrs. Harkins as I understand is a member of the Quaker faith. My husband is Lutheran Reformed, United Church of Christ because they merged together there, and I am Episcopalian.

- Q. So what are you saying? Are you saying that you saw six of the nine Board members as religiously motivated?
- A. I think that we all have very strong beliefs. What I am saying is that the viewpoint of the majority of the Board members was centered in one area of the Christian faith.

We were all members of Christian faiths who were members of the Board. I am just stating -- saying -- forgive me -- that six of the Board members happened to be members of what is termed the Evangelical portion of the Christian religion.

Q. And I do understand you there. What I am trying to understand is you seem to have some sense that there was a religious motive here. Perhaps I am misunderstanding you.

Why do you see that as relevant, their religious

- affiliation to our discussion of this August Board meeting?
- A. This goes back to what I spoke about earlier. The

 separation of church and state, whatever your personal

 beliefs are, it is important in order to be a good

 member -- a satisfactory member, a responsible member,

 however you want to term it --
- 8 Q. Sure.
- 9 A. -- of a School District such as ours in which you were
 10 there to represent -- you are there not to represent,
 11 but you are supposedly representing all of the
 12 viewpoints, all of the belief systems.
- 13 0. I do understand.
- 14 A. All of that. You cannot espouse your own belief as the one belief. No one of us has that right.
- 16 Q. Let me see if I am understanding you. Do you see the
 17 support for adding Intelligent Design, adding an
 18 Intelligent Design text as advocating a specific
 19 Christian viewpoint?
- 20 A. Yes, I do.
- 21 Q. And that is why you have this sense that the Board
 22 members if they support *Of Pandas* are supporting that
 23 religious value; is that correct?
- 24 A. Almost without exception.
- Q. Who is the exception?

1 A. Sheila Harkins.

- 2 Q. So you see her as supporting *Of Pandas* but not because of her Evangelical Christian view?
 - A. She isn't Evangelical Christian. She is a Quaker -- or she was. Forgive me. That is my past knowledge. I do not know her beliefs at this point in time.

I believe she had different reasons. I do not know what they were or are because she has stated in point of fact publicly and repeatedly that she believes in Evolution with a capital "E".

She has stated publicly, been quoted publicly in more than one media source, and she is on film, that she supports Darwin and the descent of man, etcetera.

Why she chose to support this, I don't know. I don't know if she chose to support it because she believed it would offer some other viewpoint or what.

At the same time, Mr. Noel Wenrich --

- Q. Right.
- A. -- who is a very strong Evangelical Christian and supports Creationism, supports Intelligent Design, did not support its inclusion in the curriculum because he believed -- and I am only quoting what he has stated to me, to others, to the media -- that it violates the separation of church and state. There is a time and a place.

Ο.

Okay. Let me move on, and perhaps I will get a better sense for your position. The text is approved. As you know, Of Pandas is not voted in in August as a supplemental text. The Miller and Levin text is approved.

Now we move into September. You are on the Board curriculum committee. When is the next time that the issue of Intelligent Design Theory comes to your attention?

A. Okay. We were scheduled to have a curriculum meeting on the 28th of September. It didn't happen. I can't tell you why, but it didn't happen.

In September, we were informed that there had been private donations of 50 to 60 -- I am not sure which, in that ballpark -- numbers of texts. They were anonymous contributions, which I have no problems with.

We had already put in place by a policy under my aegis as chair of the policy committee, approved it, put it into place to give the Superintendent the discretion to accept donations on his own hook without sitting down and hashing everything else.

So that is what happened. Dr. Nilsen in his office as Superintendent, his position, chose to accept the donations of 50 to 60 copies of *Of Pandas*. And they were placed in the classroom.

It was brought up. And I made the point that if we are going to teach one, we have to teach all in order to remain in compliance with the law.

I believe that that was the first time I brought up the Supreme Court decision of 1987. I am not certain. I may have brought it up at a prior meeting, but I believe that was the first time.

And I stated I think we're going to get into trouble. And Mr. Bonsell stated we didn't have to present any other viewpoints. And I would very much appreciate it if you asked my husband this same question --

Q. Okay.

- A. -- as relates to this meeting in the conference room.

 It was not part of our stated objective for the executive session, and it was never mentioned as having taken place.
 - Q. Is there anything else you recall that related to this teaching of Intelligent Design at the executive session in September? Did Bill Buckingham say anything?
- A. He was in favor of it, as was Mrs. Cleaver, and
 Mrs. Geesey. Those three I am aware were vocal in their
 support for the concept. I cannot give you specifics,
 and I don't recall comments by anyone else.
- Q. Are you saying that you can't recall the specific

1		statements that they made during this?
2	A.	That's correct. Not exact statements, only the gist.
3	Q.	What was the gist as you recall it?
4	Α.	I just said it. The gist was that we should be teaching
5		this.
6	Q.	Let's get through September and go to October. What was
7		the next development after this meeting? Plainly, it
8		wasn't an agenda item?
9	Α.	No. The proposed changes to the curriculum.
10	Q.	Tell me what you recall, how they came up.
11	Α.	As I started to state before, I am not sure who
12		instigated them, who was responsible for making the
13		initial suggestion.
14		I did miss part of a meeting at that point. I was
15		there for part of the meeting. We got into the
16		curriculum. It was a curriculum meeting; I apologize.
17		I was not able to stay.
18		Mr. Baksa was kind enough to send me a copy of
19		what was then being proposed as possible wording changes
20		for the curriculum. And it included words to the effect
21		that students would be made aware of gaps in Darwin's
22		Theory, and that there are other theories out there.
23		That's verbatim. It's not exact. I can't quite
24		see it, but that was pretty close. And I was a little
25		concerned and offered, which I am sure you have, two

alternative wording suggestions for that. 1 2 I didn't like -- Intelligent Design was in there. 3 I was still very concerned. Both my suggested changes included gaps in Darwin's Theory, but were more general 4 and did not include Intelligent Design. 5 I was still trying to remain within the framework 6 of the law. I wanted to keep us out of trouble. 7 8 believe my wording was to the effect that there are a variety of explanations for the origins of life, but I 9 didn't use origins of life to my recollection. I am not 10 I may have used evolution. I don't recall. 11 12 But did you have an understanding that under the change 0. 13 you proposed Intelligent Design Theory would still be sort of -- the students would still be made aware of it? 14 15 I didn't know at that point in time. Α. 16 0. Okay. These were just discussion points as far as I knew. 17 Α. 18 Baksa called me. He sent me the material. He indicated 19 that there were discussions on making changes to the 20 curriculum quide. 21

Q. And am I understanding you correctly that you didn't make the meeting at which those proposed changes were discussed?

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A. The meeting at which the changes were made. I don't know anything about the discussion.

- 1 Q. Let me ask you: You have referenced a Board curriculum
 2 meeting in October relating to these --
- 3 A. That was between the first and second meetings in
- 4 October.
- 5 Q. Okay. And that was a Board curriculum committee
- 6 meeting?
- 7 A. That was indeed a Board curriculum committee meeting.
- 8 Q. Did you attend that meeting?
- 9 A. No, I did not. I had an doctor's appointment, and I was
- 10 not able to get back in time.
- 11 Q. Sure. I understand.
- 12 A. It was at that meeting to the best of my understanding
- that the changes were made. I was also told that there
- were no teachers involved in that, and there was no
- 15 citizen advisory curriculum meeting called for the
- 16 citizen advisory committee to give their input prior to
- any Board decision. And no teachers were asked either.
- 18 Q. Who told you that?
- 19 A. Mr. Baksa. It was confirmed later by Mrs. Spahr.
- 20 Q. Let me ask you: Then was the first time you saw the
- 21 proposed curriculum change language that was offered by
- 22 the curriculum committee at the second Board meeting in
- 23 October?
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. And tell me what you recall about that meeting. Just

give me your overview. I have to get a sense for what you saw was in play and what the positions were.

The three different versions were offered. I was told by Mrs. Spahr after the meeting that they had only received the information of what the Board was proposing to do that morning, and they managed to get together at some point during the day and offer and make suggestions, four changes, and their own addition to wit, the origins of life will not be taught. They offered that revision.

And, of course, that was simply putting into policy what had been custom. I believe there were 18 separate -- very close to that, if not 18 -- amendments offered to change the proposed wording. And with the exception of the addition of the words the origins of life will not be taught, every proposed revision was voted down.

- Q. And give me your sense what do you think was at play at the meeting there?
- A. I don't understand.

Α.

- Q. Well, I mean there's a whole bunch of votes as you and I both know with people differing. How did you see the purpose of all of the various amendments that were being offered by certain Board members?
- 25 A. To circumvent the law of the land.

1		was that it was very hurtful, and he was very accusatory
2		towards Angie.
3	Q.	Okay. So now we are at this October 18th Board meeting?
4	A.	16th.
5	Q.	Whatever. The second Board meeting in October?
6	A.	I remember the date. I resigned.
7	Q.	And the curriculum vote is up. Did Angie make
8		statements about the proposed curriculum change?
9	Α.	Not really, but she did go along with it.
10	Q.	Did she ever talk to you about going along?
11	A.	Yes, she did.
12	Q.	What did she tell you?
13	Α.	She was afraid that her business and personal life would
14		be affected if she didn't go along with what the
15		majority of the Board wanted.
16	Q.	She mentioned her business. What was that? Does she
17		have a business in the community?
18	Α.	She does a variety of things. She inherited her late
19		husband's business, which is Yingling's Garage. I don't
20		think she runs it anymore. Please excuse me. She had
21		some legal issues. There were some problems with that,
22		some things that she had been called to account for.
23		But she is involved with some other things. I
24		know there is real estate and so forth.
25	Q.	Was it your understanding of her comment that she meant

1 her business income and so on might suffer? 2 Α. Yes. How about her personal life, was she any more specific 3 Ο. about that? 4 Just that some people -- she wasn't specific as to the 5 Α. names of individuals, but she did state that she had 6 7 been called some fairly nasty names, and that she was 8 being snubbed by people. 9 Did she attribute any comments to other Board members? 0. 10 Α. Yes. 11 I know that you have mentioned Bill Buckingham. Q. 12 else? 13 Α. Not that I am personally aware of. 14 I know there was this period here in October where this 0. 15 contemplated curriculum change is in front of the Board 16 curriculum committee and then going up in front of 17 committee. 18 Do you recall any of the Board members calling you 19 at home during that period? 2.0 No, not who were members of the curriculum. Α. 21 How about just the Board generally? Do you recall Q. 22 Mr. Bonsell calling you and asking? 23 Α. Mr. Bonsell did call me, and he wanted to talk with my 24 husband, too. I passed the information along to my

husband. At that point, I did not know what my own

- actions were going to be, and I didn't go beyond that
 point with Mr. Bonsell.
- 3 Q. Just let me make sure I understand you. You are saying
- at this point in October, you didn't know what action
- 5 you would take on the curriculum item?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. You said you didn't go further with Mr. Bonsell. You
- 8 | didn't discuss the matter?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 O. How about your husband, do you know whether he discussed
- 11 | the matter with Mr. Bonsell?
- 12 A. No, I don't. At this point, my husband and I were not
- 13 -- we were not discussing some things.
- 14 Q. With other --
- 15 A. With each other.
- 16 Q. And am I correct in understanding that you were not
- discussing certain Board matters with each other?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 |Q. And the biology curriculum change that was up?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 | O. You weren't discussing that?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Was there a particular reason? Did you have a
- 24 | difference of opinion?
- 25 A. Not at all.

- Q. Was there a particular reason you just decided not to discuss it?
- 3 A. Because I wouldn't discuss it.
- Q. I think you said you resigned at the end of this second meeting?
- 6 A. Yes, I did. So did my husband.
- 7 Q. Let me ask you about that. Did you go into that meeting
 8 on the Board curriculum with the sense that if the
 9 curriculum change was approved, you would probably
 10 resign?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 O. You didn't?
- A. No. I went into that meeting knowing I was going to
 resign. I had made up my mind. Monday, the 18th of
 October, I mailed my formal resignation to the York
 County School of Technology and the York County School
 of Technology Authority. I mailed those noontime
 actually to be precise.
- It was the same resignation I presented that night to the Dover Board, the one you have in your hand.
- 21 Q. Let me just ask you to look at that.
- 22 A. Do you want me to read it into the record?
- 23 Q. No, it will be part of the record.
- 24 (Carol Brown Deposition Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 were marked.)

- 1 BY MR. GILLEN:
- Q. Mrs. Brown, I just will get this over with quickly I
- 3 hope. I have asked the reporter Vicki to mark this
- 4 | Carol Brown 2. I believe that is a copy of your
- 5 resignation speech?
- 6 A. Yes, it is.
- 7 Q. Is it a true and accurate copy of your resignation
- 8 speech?
- 9 A. It most certainly is.
- 10 Q. While we are at it, something has been marked Carol
- 11 Brown 3. I believe that is a copy of the document --
- 12 A. Yes, it is.
- 13 Q. -- you provided that is comments you made when the
- 14 | Pledge issue was up?
- 15 A. That's correct. And the date is at the top. And it is
- 16 a correct and true copy if on the final page, there is a
- 17 correction.
- 18 Q. Yes. Are those comments you made at a public Board
- 19 | meeting?
- 20 A. Yes, they are.
- 21 Q. Number 4, you brought it, I have marked. It is a copy
- 22 of the Treaty of Tripoli?
- 23 A. Yes, it is.
- 24 Q. Good enough.
- 25 A. Signed by President John Adams.

1 Q. Let's look at Carol Brown 2, and let me ask you a few questions.

You indicated that you knew you were going to

You indicated that you knew you were going to resign when you came to this Board meeting?

A. Yes.

- Q. And I think I know why. I just want you to explain to me what had brought you to the point of resignation.
 - A. I will go back two days prior to that. Saturday, the

 16th of October was my husband's and my 20th wedding

 anniversary. We had planned to go out that night, and

 neither of us felt so inclined. It was a rare night

 when we had the house to ourselves.

And I had been avoiding discussing the situation for awhile because I was very conflicted. One doesn't give close to ten years of one's life on an average of 30 hours a week to something if one does not care a great deal about it.

And I particularly cared about my kids and their well being, and I felt that we were heading into a situation -- I felt it so strongly -- that we were heading into a situation in which there would be no winners, except maybe the lawyers. No offense. No offense.

MR. SCHMIDT: None taken.

A. And because I didn't even know where to start to talk

about it, for the first time in our relationship, I wouldn't open to my husband about it. And that night, we talked.

And it turned out that just as I had been contemplating resigning, so had my husband. And neither of us wanted to influence the other. And we talked all night basically. We talked about why we were on the School Board, what we felt we had accomplished, what we still wanted to accomplish, what we saw had been happening within the School District itself, the great things our kids have been doing.

And the incredible, I mean my gosh, our teachers have just been phenomenal. They work for the lowest pay, and they give us everything. And our administrators go so far beyond the call of duty, it is not funny.

We talked about all this and realized that neither of us was able to properly represent the people we cared about the most because our fellow Board members, with one, possibly two exceptions, didn't even want to hear what we had to say anymore.

And I say this without pride or egotism, but I was the most senior Board member, not just in terms of length of service, but in terms of experience, expertise across the Board. I had been the policy chairperson for

almost ten years. I had studied every aspect, or as much as a layman can, of school law. I kept myself apprised of every court case that related to things in which we were involved, and I gave the same attention and involvement to the York County School of Technology. I participated in negotiations at all levels at both School Districts.

My husband was directly and very seriously involved with all aspects of the building project. He was then chairperson of Buildings and Grounds and also the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Task Force which was a task force instituted every three to four years to just do a basic review of all of our buildings and our needs.

He was head of Transportation, had just concluded a very successful transportation contract that was extremely favorable to the School District for -- it was for a five-year period.

But no one believed that we had anything to offer anymore in terms of what we were saying because we were saying what the majority of the Board did not want to hear from my viewpoint, my belief.

They repudiated anything we had to say or anything we offered to do. And this was I think felt by both of us.

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But I didn't make my final decision -- even though I wrote out my resignation speech on Sunday night, as did my husband -- his was a little more informal. have got to have it in black and white and big enough so I can read it -- until noontime Monday when I took the letters to the Post Office. Okay. Let me see. To understand you, you say you were Q. saying something to the Board they didn't want to hear. It seems from the thrust of your comments, it is something that related to this issue, what we have been discussing here? And related in greater measure to the limits of what a Α. School Director or School Board member is allowed to do by code, custom, law. Q. Tell me if you can what -- as you see it now, you are on the point of resigning. What is it you said don't do this, this curriculum change is imprudent, is that the thrust of the comments that you are referencing in your testimony? Α. More than that. That was simply the tip of the iceberg. The proposed curriculum change was a manifestation of personal desire on the part of the majority of the Board I believe. Personal desire in what way? Q. Α. Personal desire to institute -- no. To take the School

There is a separation of church and state, 1987. 1 In 1999, the state legislature and the voters --2 3 the good voters of the state of Kansas -- told the state Board of Education the same thing, no, no, no, you may 4 5 not do that. And what I saw our Board doing is attempting to 6 7 take that same path again. Whether or not it was called 8 Creationism or Intelligent Design, I saw and still see the Board attempting to break that separation between 9 10 church and state, to break the law, to go beyond our 11 mandates. Okay. And now I see plainly that this curriculum issue, 12 0. 13 Intelligent Design, that's the basis for your stated 14 concern. 15 Apart from that, was there anything else that you 16 saw? That was one of the biggest things. One of the last 17 Α. things I did before I resigned, because it was part of 18 19 my resignation, and the first thing I did at the meeting after I resigned was to beg the Board once again to 20 21 rethink their position; to take this out of curriculum; 22 to take it out of biology and instead offer a separate 23 class in comparative world religions. 24 And I had been suggesting that for many months 25 since very early in the year when it first came up

because I believed then and I believe now this issue is a matter of faith. It is a matter we cannot touch, taste, feel, smell, see, hear. It is a matter of faith.

And if we are going to talk about faith and matters of faith, then open our students' minds to the faiths of the whole world, not just one. Open our students to the viewpoint of the Buddhists that the universe always has been. Open them up to the Native American, whatever. I am going beyond. What else? That's fine. I understand your position here. Again, that relates to the curriculum issue and so on. I am trying to get a sense if there is any other issue you saw that gave you concern.

Let's put it this way: You said you felt -- you and your husband after speaking felt that the Board wasn't interested in listening to what you had to say? What I felt was that the Board was not interested -- and unfortunately, I am sorry to say I feel it even more strongly today -- they were not interested in viewpoints, opinions or any information, factual or otherwise that does not agree with what they believe or want to see done or want to do.

O. So sort of --

Α.

Q.

A. They are not responsive to the community. They don't want to hear what the community has to say unless it is

1 that portion of the community that absolutely agrees 2 with their viewpoints. 3 Q. It seems like in this way, we have almost come full 4 circle in that you have a sense of lack of 5 accountability which sort of brought you on the Board in 6 the first place? 7 Α. That is not what brought me on the Board in the first 8 place. 9 0. Okay. 10 Α. I ran as a parent of a special needs child because I saw 11 a lot of problems and comments. Special needs children 12 in that time were still kind of being shunted to one 13 side. 14 What the law mandated, they got in services. 15 if you didn't know what to ask about, you didn't get 16 anything. That is why I ran for the Board. 17 It wasn't until my third term that fiscal 18 accountability came up. To cut to the chase, I was in 19 the minority when I came on the Board. I was in the 20 majority, if you will, at the beginning of my third term 21 for approximately two years. 22 When I say in the majority, simpatico. All of the 23 Board members for the one and only time were on the same 24 wavelength. We were focused on certain things. 25 a lot done.

Now in that time period, the first thing I did
when I was elected President was to take the show on the
road to make us responsible to the community in which we
served. Every meeting was at a different school. I
made it policy as Board President because we needed to
have that accountability.

You called them Board retreats. What we had were

You called them Board retreats. What we had were a series of meetings with various building administrators and staff members so that they could express their concerns, their needs. That is part of accountability.

We listened to the students. We heard what the community had to say. Okay. That was not present when I was first on the Board.

However, in that same time period, whether or not my fellow Board members agreed with me, there was always a respectful hearing. I don't mean listening. I mean hearing, and listening, and a response.

That changed. And when Mr. Bonsell became

President, we didn't take our show on the road anymore.

We stopped listening. We stopped hearing what our

people had to say. And I say we, because I was a member of the Board. I was as guilty as anyone else. And then we stopped listening to each other.

Q. And I think that is what you said led you to this point

1 of resignation? 2 Α. That's right. 3 Q. The sense, they didn't want --And I could no longer properly represent the people. 4 Α. couldn't be an advocate for either my fellow members of 5 6 the community or for my kids. 7 Q. You felt you couldn't be effective as a Board member? 8 Α. That's correct. Also, I felt it was important I have 9 some credibility because I have served long and I 10 believe honorably to the end. People do listen, and the 11 media listens. 12 I felt that the only way the community would be 13 made aware of exactly what was happening was by stepping 14 down. 15 So you were indicating your disapproval of the Q. 1.6 Board's --17 More than that. All I was trying to do was wake people 18 If you don't know what is going on, how do you 19 change it, or how do you prevent it from happening? 20 If you are aware of what is going on and choose to 21 do nothing, then it is on your head. The old Scottish 22 verdict not proven or the old expression silence implies 23 consent.

If you know about it and you don't do anything, then you deserve what you get.

24

25

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. But you have to know about it first. And even though
- 3 there had been some attention, there wasn't enough. And
- 4 we had to make sure the people understood. I felt I had
- 5 to. I owed them that.
- 6 Q. If we look at this exhibit, Carol Brown 2, that is your
- 7 resignation speech. Do you see that as kind of your
- 9 A. It was my last attempt to wake the Board up.
- 10 Q. I glanced --
- 11 A. It was also to say thank you to our teachers and
- 12 administrators.
- 13 Q. I noticed that.
- 14 A. And our students.
- 15 Q. I did notice that. Let me just ask you, Mrs. Brown,
- 16 there's one, two -- on the third page there, three
- paragraphs down --
- 18 A. However, it has become increasingly evident; is that the
- 19 one?
- 20 Q. No. The third paragraph down.
- 21 A. A measure of that?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 |A. I have already indicated who did it and when it
- happened.
- 25 Q. That is what I was going to ask you.

- A. Mrs. Cleaver and Mr. Buckingham, and I know that it is in this.
- Q. And the thing when I read it, there is this sense of a person's beliefs be used as a yardstick to measure the value of that service?
- 6 A. Absolutely.
- Q. Why did you have that sense, that your beliefs were being -- or did you have a sense that --
- 9 A. I had said --
- I am sorry, Mrs. Brown. Vicki is saving me from a very imprecise question. You have served a long time, and you have achieved a lot. What struck me when I read this over the lunch is I think you had told me about these comments, but this last sentence is quite stark.
- 15 A. It was meant to be.
- 16 Q. Is there anything else that was said to you that

 17 contributed to this statement here that a person's

 18 beliefs be used as a yardstick to measure the value of

 19 that service?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Tell me what.
- A. I have stated -- and I believe it is part of the record

 -- I am an Episcopalian. I will not give you the name

 of the individual, I am sorry, because of that

 individual's family, not because of the individual who

- take advantage, go outside for a cigarette, go to the bathroom, or stay put and read notes.
- 3 Q. Where did this particular conversation take place?
- 4 A. It took place in the hall of the North Salem Elementary
- 5 School outside of the cafeterium where most of our
- 6 meetings are held.
- 7 Q. What sort of exchange produced this observation?
- 8 A. The exchange was on the other individual's part. I
- 9 | wouldn't call it an exchange. The individual indicated
- 10 that my husband and I were responsible for causing
- 11 destruction within the Board and the District, and it
- went on from there. At which point, I walked away.
- 13 Q. And causing destruction, was he referencing to this
- dispute and conflict over the curriculum change?
- 15 A. He or she, I believe was.
- Q. Thank you. And just give me a sense for how your church
- membership came up.
- 18 A. I did not bring it up. I have no understanding of why
- the individual chose to bring that particular standpoint
- up or belief. I have never made any secret of my church
- 21 membership. None of us really has.
- 22 Q. Sure. Apart from this comment which you have mentioned
- in January of 2005, were there any other comments?
- 24 A. By this individual?
- 25 Q. Well, from Board members directed to your religious

1		beliefs.
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	You have mentioned two, one by Mr. Buckingham, and one
4		by Mrs. Cleaver. Besides those, any additional ones?
5	А.	Just the meeting in the hallway.
6	Q.	Are you running for School Board?
7	A.	No, I am not.
8	Q.	Is your husband running?
9	Α.	Yes, he is. Tomorrow is Election Day, and he will be
10		here talking with you.
11	Q.	I saw the signs coming in. Is he running with Angie
12		Yingling?
13	Α.	No. She has chosenhe has nothing to do with the
14		signs.
15	Ω.	You mentioned that there were two votes that you had
16	A.	The other vote occurred, it would have been in the first
17		year of my second term. And the Honeywell people,
18		Honeywell Energy Systems, etcetera, came and made a
19		proposal to retrofit schools within the District to make
20		not just our lights, but our energy systems more energy
21		efficient.
22		And even though my husband is an electrician, I
23		don't know that much. I was a little concerned because
24		it seemed a bit pricey, but they promised us we would
25		realize "x" amount of money in energy savings. I voted